

Human Rights in India
 Ramapo College of New Jersey

Course Information	
INTD-303	
Credit Hours	4
Semester / Year	
Class Date/Time	
Prerequisites	INTD-201 (India: Culture and Society)
Fulfills	GE: Distribution Category Values and Ethics

Course Description

This course explores ways in which people in India are organizing to achieve social justice, human rights and working to find solutions to economic, social and political problems. The course begins by reviewing the legal and political structures that shape the lives of citizens and how citizens use rights framing to claim political space. Through readings, lectures and fieldtrips, students learn about human rights in India from a subaltern perspective, its history and legal context and socio-legal mobilization for rights. The course also examines tools for social change such as grassroots media, alternative law practices and conflict resolution groups.

Course Goals

1. Analyze ethical implications of the global distribution of power and resources.
 - Analyze the distributions of power and resources and their implications at the local, national, and international level.
 - Summarize ethical perspectives in understanding inequities in the distribution of power and resources.
 - Theories of Human Rights, Social Justice and Citizenship.
2. Question assumptions about individual and group identity.
 - Articulate the forces that have shaped conceptions of identity in the past and/or present.
 - Evaluate the forces that have shaped conceptions of identity in the past and/or present.
3. Practice reflective inter/intra-personal skills.
 - Practice reflective inter-personal skills
 - Practice reflective intra-personal skills.
4. Demonstrate logic and reasoning* skills.

1. OBJECTIVES	OUTCOME S	Excursion Journals or Field Notes	READING JOURNALS	FINAL ESSAY (builds on	Participation in class and Field
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		(includes ethnographic mapping exercises and interviews)	L (Reflection on the readings and field visits)	field visits, examination of social movements and institutional response- especially court cases)	visits
1. Analyze ethical implications of the global distribution of power and resources. <i>(shares with SSI, HP, and SSS)</i>	1. Analyze the distributions of power and resources and their implications at the local, national, and international level.	YES	YES	YES	
	2. Summarize ethical perspectives in understanding inequities in the distribution of power and resources.	YES	YES	YES	
2. Question assumptions about individual and	1. Articulate the forces that have		YES	YES	YES

group identity.	shaped conceptions of identity in the past and/or present.				
	2. Evaluate the forces that have shaped conceptions of identity in the past and/or present.		YES	YES	YES
3. Practice reflective inter/intra-personal skills.	1. Practice reflective inter-personal skills	YES	YES	YES	YES
	2. Practice reflective intra-personal skills.	YES	YES	YES	YES
4. Demonstrate logic and reasoning skills.			YES	YES	

Texts, Readings, Materials

Human Rights

Helen Stacy (2012). Human Rights. Stanford University Press. Excerpts.

Upendra Baxi (2008). The Future of Human Rights. Oxford University Press. Excerpts.

Citizenship and Social Movements:

Jayal, Niraja Gopal (2015). Citizenship and its Discontents, Harvard University Press. Excerpts.

Baviskar, Amrita. Social Movements in India. Excerpts.

Women's and LGBT Movement

Baxi, Pratiksha (2014).

Student Protest

Kumar, Radha (1995) "From Chipko to Sati" in Basu, Amrita, ed., The Challenge of Local Feminisms. Boulder: Westview Press.

Environment, Human Rights and Movement politics

Human Right to Water. Case Study- Plachimada and Narmada Bachao Andolan

Human Right to Environment.

Case Study of Public Interest Litigations by Env Support Group

Media and Human Rights

Singhal, Arvind (2003). Entertainment-Education and Social Change: History, Research, and Practice. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Religion, Caste and Tribe

Roy, Arundhati. (2014).

Additional readings will be added on dropbox.

Course Requirements

This course will require student participation in lectures, discussion of reading materials, and field trips. Students will also complete weekly journal assignments. A final paper will test the students' knowledge of key course concepts.

Journal Assignment Guidelines

Journals: The purpose of these journals is to reflect on your academic learning and experiences while in India. You can use these journal entries to help you write your final essay for this course. Journal grades will be based on your effort to understand the academic material and to thoughtfully reflect on your experiences, as well as on the clarity of your writing. Journals are divided into two categories with specific requirements, as follows:

Reading Journals:

Summarize the main ideas of at least one of the readings or of the lecture for that day.

Include a relevant or illustrative quote and comment on that quote.

Integrate concepts from readings, lectures and films with your experiences outside of the classroom.

Utilize an academic concept and then use your description of an event to illuminate or illustrate that concept or describe an event first and then try to apply a concept to understand, interpret, or make sense out of that event

Excursion Journals (Field Notes):

Observations from each visit:

Give a careful concrete description of 2-3 interactions or observations that you have during this particular excursion. Describe the events and people you observe as concretely as possible and avoid using your own cultural assumptions to interpret or judge them.

Names, designations

Quotes from conversations

Questions

Spatial description (where; what; purpose; idea)

You must write **5 entries per week minimum**. Each entry should be **300 words long**, minimum. Each student will **submit three journals, with 5 entries in each journal**.

Give page numbers for all quotes using in-text citations. Proofread for spelling, grammar and clarity. Please use double-spacing and 12-point font. Please save in Microsoft Word.

Submit your journal via dropbox. If the internet is not working at Fireflies, please submit your journal to Program Manager who will deliver it to the faculty.

Final Essay: The final essay for the course includes a 10 page paper on an human rights issue of interest. This paper will build on a court case or legislative policy in India and tie it with human rights movement politics.

General Education Program Course

Through this course you will explore human rights and social movements in the context of India.

This course meets the Values and Ethics category of the General Education program.

The course also meets the International Issues category of the old General Education Program.

Grading Policy

20%	Active participation and attendance at all events
30%	Weekly journals on readings, lectures, and field trips
50%	Final essay on key themes of course (10 pages)
A-Range	Student demonstrated superior analytical abilities in all her/his assignments. Student carefully read all relevant material and provided

	both a clear understanding of what s/he has read and provided insightful analyses and thoughtful critiques. Moreover, the topic under study was explored fully.
B-Range	Student demonstrated an above average analytical ability. Student was able to provide a clear understanding of the material and some insights and critiques. The topic under study was explored fairly thoroughly.
C-Range	Student could demonstrate average analytical ability. Student was unable to provide a clear understanding of the material and offered few insights and critiques. The topic under study was not explored fully.
D-Range	Student completed assignments but showed poor analytical ability. Student provided a very weak understanding of the material and offered poor insights and critiques. The topic was explored minimally.
Fail	Student did not demonstrate any analytical ability, did not provide any understanding of the material and offered no insight and critiques, or did not complete the assignments.

A	94+	B-	83 – 80	D+	69 – 67
A-	90 – 93	C+	79 – 77	D	66 – 63
B+	87 – 89	C	76 – 74	F	62 – 0
B	86 – 84	C-	73 – 70		

Late work will result in a reduction of five (5) points per day late for each assignment.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes except in cases of illness. Unexcused absences from lectures or fieldtrips will result in a deduction of three points from participation grade per absence. College policy states that students must notify faculty within the first three weeks of the semester if they anticipate missing any classes due to religious observance.

Electronic Forms of Communication

In accordance with College policy, I will use your Ramapo College email address (@ramapo.edu) to communicate with you about all course-related matters.

Policy on Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to read and understand Ramapo College’s academic integrity policy, which can be found online in the *College Catalog*. Members of the Ramapo College community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Students who violate this policy will be required to meet with the faculty member and/or will be referred to the Office of

the Provost.” This policy will be strictly enforced. No exceptions will be made, and the Office of the Provost will be notified in ALL cases.

Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability that has been documented with the Office of Specialized Services, please make an appointment with me.

Note on Class Schedule: This course is part of the Study Abroad in India program, and therefore has a modified schedule.

COURSE – III: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND MEDIA IN INDIA			
MODULE – I: HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS			
28 February, Sunday-04, March 04 March		Readings on Human Rights Law and Distributive Justice Helen Stacy.	Helen Stacy. Human Rights Baxi. The Future of Human Rights Jayal. Citizenship and its Discontents
05 March, Saturday		Rights of Sexual Minorities	Prior to the lecture: Read newspaper articles on the case on Gay rights and Transgender rights (See dropdown)
		Work on Research Proposal and catch up with readings for this module.(to be submitted by 6 th)	
06 March, Sunday	09:30am – 1:00pm	Aravind and the Alternative Law Forum Team Submit research proposal (to be	Reading on Public Interest Litigation and Human Rights

		submitted by 6 th)	
	3:00 pm-6:00 pm	Discussion on Pondicherry trip and talk by Alternative Law Forum. Followed by discussion on Human Rights and Public Interest Litigation in India	
	Evening	Watch Dam/Age Submit Journal 1 (Pondicherry trip and the first two talks)	
MODULE – II: MEDIA, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA			
	10-1	Urban Campaigns for Environmental Justice	Reading on Social and Environmental movements
07 March, Monday	2-3:00	Discussion	
	6:00 – 8:00pm	Film: Footage from Plachimada Protest against Coca-Cola	
08 March, Tuesday	10:00am – 12:30pm	SDG”s and India Prep for St. Joseph’s college discussion Also, discussion on webpage	Read Rpoh
	2:00 – 4:00pm	Open meeting: Research Proposal	

		Discussion of Interview Process	
	07:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Proposal meeting (individual)	
09 March, Wednesday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	St. Joseph's college (Workshop on SDG's)	
	2:30-4:00 pm		
	5-7:00 pm	Meeting with former governor of Karnataka	
10 March, Thursday	Media and Human Rights: Sashi Kumar (Media Expert)		
	Afternoon: Caste and Tribal Movements		
	Evening Chat		
11 March, Friday	09:30 am - 05:30 pm	Women's rights movement and screening of India's Daughter	
12 March, Saturday	9:00 – 1:00 pm	Aarvind Singhal: Positive Devaince	
	7:00 pm – 09:30 pm	Dinner	
13 March, Sunday	09:30 am - 11:00 am	OPEN TIME Writing the Field Study Research Paper & Conducting Field	

		Study Research	
		Journal 2 due (5 entries)	
13 March, Sunday	11:30-1:00	Group/Individual discussion on Independent Study and Final Paper for course III - Challenges & Concerns	Journal Due
	2:00-3:00		
	4:00pm -		
14 March, Monday	Writing Day		Submit annotated bibliography / Submit travel plans to RCNJ RPA
15 March, Tuesday	Writing Day		
16 March, Wednesday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Meeting to Reflect on Essays and Course-III Final Paper draft for Course III	
17 March, Thursday	Peer Discussion of Course III paper		
18 March, Friday-19 th March	Break		Essays for Course - III Due